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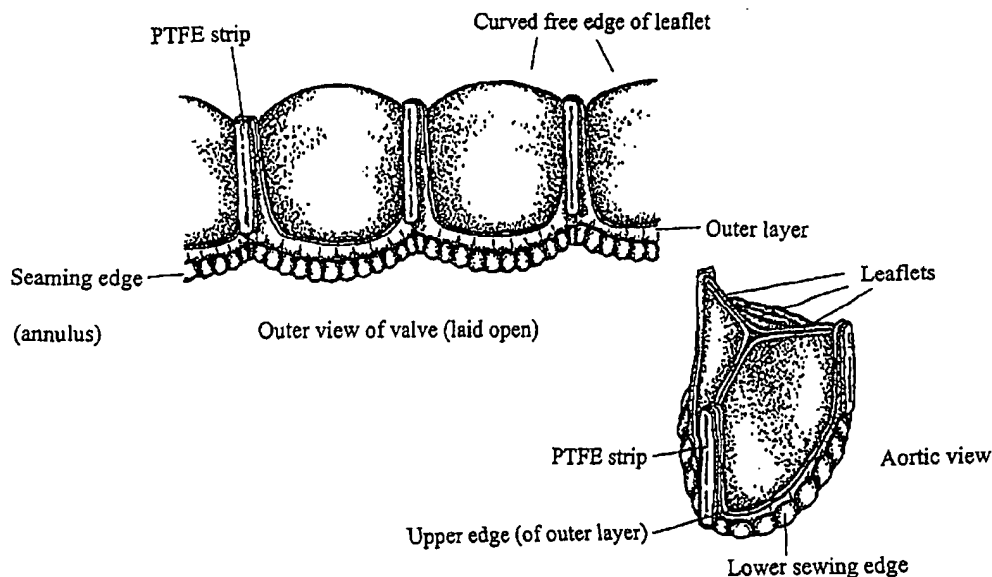
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(54) Title: **VALVE PROSTHESIS**



(57) Abstract: A heart valve prosthesis having a plurality of leaflets encircling a flow opening and of size to coapt to form a valve, each leaflet having a free outflow edge at the outflow end of the leaflet, wherein the free outflow edge forms a convex (relative to the leaflet) curve in the plane of the leaflet, and methods for forming such a valve. A stentless heart valve prosthesis suitable for replacement of the aortic root comprising an outer wall and a plurality of leaflets positioned inside the outer wall, encircling a flow opening and of size to coapt to form a valve, wherein the outer wall and leaflets are formed from material other than natural valve material, and methods of forming such a valve prosthesis.

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